

COMPLETE LIST OF CLAIMS

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The following is a complete list of the claims.

36

- 38        1. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing communication within a community, the method comprising:
  - 40            (a) establishing a hierarchical structure for organizing communications between a plurality of users within the community;
  - 42            (b) distributing control through selection of inherited parameters of said hierarchical structure to at least one of said plurality of users, wherein said inherited parameters comprise parameters defining access by said plurality of users to said communications organized within said hierarchical structure;
  - 44            (c) storing in said hierarchical structure at least a portion of said communications received from said plurality of users from at least one of a plurality of input devices in relation to at least one of a plurality of topics that is user selected;
  - 46            (z) providing a link to a resource associated with said at least a portion of said communications that is stored, wherein said link is available for access by authorized users of said plurality of users;
  - 48            (d) prioritizing said at least a portion of said communications within said hierarchical structure;
  - 50            (e) presenting to at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one of a plurality of input devices a selected portion of said communications stored in said hierarchical structure, wherein said selected portion of said communications are related under said at least one of a plurality of topics that is user selected a topic; and
  - 52            (f) enabling dynamic interaction through further contributions of communications by said at least a one of said

68 plurality of users through said at least one of a plurality of  
input devices in response to presentation of said selected  
70 portion of said communications within said hierarchical  
structure, wherein said further contributions of  
72 communications are stored and accessed within said  
hierarchical structure in relation to said topic, wherein said  
74 further contributions are associated with at least one  
discussion thread comprising a recorded communication under  
76 said at least one of a plurality of topics that is conducted  
between participating users of said plurality of users.  
78

2. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
80 within a community according to claim 1 wherein said  
establishing a hierarchical structure further comprises:  
82       creating a top-level hierarchy having at least one top-  
level subject;  
84       creating at least one mid-level hierarchy, each of said  
at least one mid-level hierarchy having at least one mid-level  
86 subject related to at least one of said at least one top-level  
subject; and  
88       creating a low-level hierarchy having at least one low-  
level subject related to at least one of said at least one  
90 mid-level subject, wherein each of said stored communications  
becomes an item indexed to at least one of said at least one  
92 low-level subject.

94       3. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 2 wherein said  
96 distributing control through inherited parameters of said  
hierarchical structure further comprises:  
98       assigning at least one top-level leader for each of said  
at least one top-level subject;  
100       assigning at least one mid-level leader for each of said  
at least one mid-level subject; and

102        assigning at least one low-level leader for each of said  
103        at least one low-level subject.

104

105        4. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
106        within a community according to claim 3 wherein said  
107        distributing control through inherited parameters of said  
108        hierarchical structure further comprises:

109        assigning at least one of said inherited parameters to  
110        each of said at least one top-level subject, wherein said at  
111        least one of said inherited parameters controls input or  
112        access to a database function by said at least one top-level  
113        leader associated with said at least one top-level subject;

114        assigning at least one of said inherited parameters to  
115        each of said at least one mid-level subject, wherein said at  
116        least one of said inherited parameters controls input or  
117        access to a database function by said at least one mid-level  
118        leader associated with said at least one mid-level subject;  
119        and

120        assigning at least one of said inherited parameters to  
121        each of said at least one low-level subject, wherein said at  
122        least one of said inherited parameters controls input or  
123        access to a database function by said at least one low-level  
124        leader associated with said at least one low-level subject.

126        5. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
127        within a community according to claim 4:

128        wherein said at least one of said inherited parameters  
129        assigned to each of said at least one low-level subject is  
130        inherited from said at least one mid-level subject related to  
131        said at least one low-level subject, and

132        further wherein said at least one of said inherited  
133        parameters assigned to each of said at least one mid-level  
134        subject is inherited from said at least one top-level subject  
135        related to said at least one mid-level subject, and

136        further wherein said at least one of said inherited

parameters assigned to each of said at least one top-level  
138 subject is inherited from a web master.

140 6. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 5:

142 wherein said at least one parameter inherited by each of  
said at least one low-level subject is the same as, or  
144 narrower in scope, than said at least one parameter assigned  
to each of said at least one mid-level subject related to said  
146 at least one low-level subject, and

148 further wherein said at least one parameter inherited by  
each of said at least one mid-level subject is the same as, or  
narrower in scope, than said at least one parameter assigned  
150 to each of said at least one top-level subject related to said  
at least one mid-level subject.

152

154 7. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 6:

156 wherein said at least one of said inherited parameters  
assigned to each of said at least one top-level subject is  
inherited from a web master, and

158 further wherein said at least one parameter inherited by  
each of said at least one top-level subject is the same as, or  
160 narrower in scope, than said at least one parameter assigned  
to each of said at least one top-level subject by said web  
162 master.

164 8. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 7:

166 wherein each of said inherited parameters comprises a one  
of a privacy parameter, screening parameter, input parameter,  
168 user ID parameter, and an approval parameter.

170 9. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 8:

172       wherein each of said inherited parameters has at least  
174       one access level, wherein a higher one of each of said at  
least one access level provides more management control than a  
lower one of each of said at least one access level.

176

178       10. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 7 wherein said  
distributing control through inherited parameters of said  
180       hierarchical structure further comprises:

182       allowing said at least one top-level leader associated  
with said at least one top-level subject, said at least one  
mid-level leader associated with said at least one mid-level  
184       subject, and said at least one low-level leader associated  
with said at least one mid-level subject, to change  
186       respectively said at least one access level of said inherited  
parameters at any time.

188

190       11. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 1 wherein said  
distributing control through inherited parameters of said  
192       hierarchical structure further comprises:

194       assigning an access status to each of said plurality of  
users,

196       wherein said access status comprises a one of an  
inclusive access and an exclusive access, and  
further wherein said inclusive access allows access to  
198       each of said stored communications in said hierarchical  
structure except where excluded by said inherited parameters,  
200       and

202       further wherein said exclusive access allows access to  
each of said stored communications in said hierarchical  
structure only where explicitly assigned.

204

206       12. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 1 wherein said

208 establishing a hierarchical structure for organizing  
communications further comprises:  
utilizing a database for establishing said hierarchical  
210 structure,  
wherein said at least a portion of said communications are  
212 stored in said hierarchical structure in said database.

214 13. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 12 further comprising:  
216 recording and storing a communication from a user in said  
database when said user is not accessing said database at the  
218 time said communication is initiated.

220 14. (Previously Presented) A method for enhancing  
communication within a community according to claim 1 wherein  
222 said enabling dynamic interaction further comprises:  
stratifying said selected portion of said communications  
224 into at least one item type.

226 15. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 14 wherein said at least  
228 one item type is a one of an idea, question, event, review,  
survey, newsletter, and action item.

230  
232 16. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 1 wherein said  
presenting a selected portion of said communications further  
234 comprises:

filtering said at least a portion of said communications  
236 yielding a filtered portion of communications;  
consolidating said filtered portion of communications  
238 yielding a consolidated portion of communications;  
sorting said consolidated portion of communications  
240 yielding a sorted portion of communications; and  
presenting said sorted portion of communications

242 according to a predetermined level of content review.

244 17. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
246 within a community according to claim 1 wherein said storing  
in said hierarchical structure further comprises:

248 attaching a resource to at least one of said at least a  
portion of said communications,

250 wherein said resource is a one of an internal database  
link, a document/file attachment, and an external Internet  
link.

252

254 18. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 1 wherein said enabling  
dynamic interaction further comprises:

256 alerting said at least one of said plurality of users to  
an activity within the community,

258 wherein said activity is a one of a topic within said  
hierarchical structure, an item type within said hierarchical  
260 structure, a response from an individual user within the  
community, a response from any one of a member of a group of  
262 users within the community, a new posting from an individual  
user within the community, and a new posting from any one of a  
264 member of a group of users within the community.

266 19. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 1 wherein said enabling  
268 dynamic interaction further comprises:

270 alerting said at least one of said plurality of users to  
a message within the community,

272 wherein said message is sent to at least a one of a home  
page of said at least one of said plurality of users, to an e-  
mail account of said at least one of said plurality of users,  
274 to a voice mail box of said at least one of said plurality of  
users, and to some other type of communications device of said

276 at least one of said plurality of users.

278 20. (Original) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 1 wherein said enabling  
280 dynamic interaction further comprises:

282 alerting a select group of others within the community to  
an activity or a message of said at least one of said  
plurality of users,

284 wherein said activity is a one of a topic within said  
hierarchical structure, an item type within said hierarchical  
286 structure, a response from said at least one of said plurality  
of users, a new posting from said at least one of said  
288 plurality of users, and

290 further wherein said message is sent to at least a one of  
a home page of said select group of others within the  
community, to an e-mail account of said select group of others  
292 within the community, to a voice mail box of said select group  
of others within the community, and to some other type of  
294 communications device of said select group of others within  
the community.

296

298 21. (Currently Amended) A computer system for  
enhancing communication within a community, the computer  
system comprising:

300 an application platform running an application that  
organizes a plurality of communications, said application  
302 further comprising:

304 a database for storing said plurality of communications;

306 an inherited parameters responsibility module for  
establishing a hierarchical structure for said plurality of  
communications and for distributing control of said  
hierarchical structure to a plurality of users within the  
308 community, through selection of inherited parameters  
comprising parameters defining access by said plurality of  
310 users to said plurality of communications organized within

said hierarchical structure;

312       an input module for capturing said plurality of  
communications within said hierarchical structure sent by said  
314       plurality of users from a plurality of communication devices  
and storing at least a portion of said plurality of  
316       communications in relation to at least one of a plurality of  
topics that is user selected, wherein said plurality of  
318       communications comprises at least one link to a resource  
associated with said at least a portion of said plurality of  
320       communications that is stored, wherein said link is available  
for access by authorized users;

322       a thread synchronization module for synchronizing said  
plurality of communications within said hierarchical  
324       structure;

326       a reviewing module for presenting said synchronized  
plurality of communications in said hierarchical structure to  
said plurality of users for dynamic interaction enabled  
328       through further contributions of communications by said  
plurality of users, wherein said further contributions of  
330       communications are stored and accessed within said  
hierarchical structure in relation to said at least one of a  
plurality of topics that is user selected, wherein said  
further contributions are associated with at least one  
332       discussion thread comprising recorded communication under said  
at least one of a plurality of topics that is conducted  
334       between participating users of said plurality of users; and

336       an output module for outputting a plurality of responses  
338       to said plurality of communications from said plurality of  
users to said plurality of communication devices.

340

22. (Original) A computer system for enhancing  
342       communication within a community according to claim 21 wherein  
said application platform is a one of a centralized  
344       application platform architecture and a distributed  
application platform architecture,

346       wherein said distributed application platform  
347       architecture has a plurality of databases for storing  
348       distributively said plurality of communications.

350       23. (Original) A computer system for enhancing  
351       communication within a community according to claim 22 further  
352       comprising:

354       for said distributed application platform architecture,  
355       an inherited parameters synchronization module for determining  
356       a one of a plurality of application platforms of said  
357       distributed application platform that contains a portion of  
358       said plurality of communications sought by a one of said  
359       plurality of users, and for routing said one of said plurality  
360       of users to said one of a plurality of application platforms;  
361       and

362       a content synchronization module for exchanging and  
363       synchronizing content between said plurality of databases.

364       24. (Original) A computer system for enhancing  
365       communication within a community according to claim 21 wherein  
366       said application further comprises:

368       a content access interface for determining a current  
369       hierarchical structure of said database accessible by said  
370       plurality of users;

372       an authorization module for authorizing each of said  
373       plurality of users to access a portion of said plurality of  
374       communications stored in said database to which each of said  
375       plurality of users have access rights and in conjunction with  
376       said inherited parameters responsibility module;

378       an interaction control module for determining a dynamic  
379       interaction capability for said plurality of users with said  
380       plurality of communications stored in said database to which  
381       said plurality of users have access rights in conjunction with  
382       said inherited parameters responsibility module; and

380        a content prioritizing interface for sorting and  
prioritizing the order said plurality of communications are  
382    presented to each of said plurality of users for review.

384        25. (Original) A computer system for enhancing  
communication within a community according to claim 21 further  
386    comprising:

388        a recording module accessible by said plurality of  
communication devices,

390        wherein said recording module, after a user input is  
received in a one of said plurality of communication devices  
on a record option, queries said database causing said  
392    database to deliver to said one of said plurality of  
communication devices said hierarchical structure of said  
394    plurality of communications, and

396        further wherein said recording module receives a user  
selection input of a topic within said hierarchical structure  
with which to associate a communication from said one of said  
398    plurality of communication devices, and

400        further wherein said recording module records and stores  
in said database said communication sent from said one of said  
plurality of communication devices.

402

404        26. (Original) A computer system for enhancing  
communication within a community according to claim 25 wherein  
said recording module resides on said one of said plurality of  
406    communication devices.

408        27. (Original) A computer system for enhancing  
communication within a community according to claim 25 wherein  
410    said recording module resides on said application and is  
accessed over a communication channel by a user input on said  
412    record option selected from a tool bar displayed on said one  
of said plurality of communication devices.

414

28. (Original) A computer system for enhancing

416 communication within a community according to claim 21 wherein  
said inherited parameters responsibility module further  
418 comprises:

420 a hierarchy initiation module for creating a plurality of  
headings in a top-level hierarchy and for assigning at least  
one heading leader for each of said plurality of headings, and

422 for creating a plurality of categories in a mid-level  
hierarchy and for assigning at least one category leader for  
424 each of said plurality of categories, and

426 for creating a plurality of topics in a low-level  
hierarchy and for assigning at least one topic leader for each  
of said plurality of topics,

428 wherein each of said stored plurality of communications  
becomes an item indexed to at least one of said plurality of  
430 topics.

432 29. (Original) A computer system for enhancing

communication within a community according to claim 21 wherein  
434 said input module further comprises:

436 a resource attachment module for attaching a resource to  
at least one of said plurality of communications,  
438 wherein said resource is one of an internal database  
link, a document/file attachment, and an external Internet  
link.

440

30. (Original) A computer system for enhancing

442 communication within a community according to claim 21 wherein  
said thread synchronization module further comprises:

444 an initial priority-based content placement module for  
determining a priority assignment for an initial communication  
446 so that when reviewed by one of said plurality of users  
accessing said application, said initial communication is  
448 reviewed in proper relationship to a portion of said plurality  
of communications related to said initial communication; and

450        a response priority-based content placement module for  
determining a priority assignment for a response communication  
452        so that when reviewed by a one of said plurality of users  
accessing said application, said response communication is  
454        reviewed in proper relationship to a portion of said plurality  
of communications related to said response communication.

456

31.        (Original) A computer system for enhancing  
458        communication within a community according to claim 21 wherein  
said reviewing module further comprises:

460        a filter module for setting at least one filter  
parameter,

462        wherein said at least one filter parameter is at  
least a one of a filter out parameter that filters out a  
464        first portion of said synchronized plurality of  
communications and a filter in parameter that filters in  
466        a second portion of said synchronized plurality of  
communications for review by a user; and  
468        a consolidation reviewing interface for setting a level  
of content review,

470        wherein said set level of content review is a one of  
a full review, a summary only review, a title only  
472        review, and an all responses review.

474        32.        (Original) A computer system for enhancing  
communication within a community according to claim 21 wherein  
476        said reviewing module further comprises:

478        a customized interactive reviewing module for creating a  
digital binder,

480        wherein said customized interactive reviewing module  
allows each of said plurality of users to aggregate in said  
482        digital binder a specific portion of said plurality of  
communications most useful to each of said plurality of users.

484       33. (Original) A computer system for enhancing  
communication within a community according to claim 32 wherein  
486 said input module and said thread synchronization module  
update said digital binder in real time with new content  
488 received in said application related to said specific portion  
of said plurality of communications aggregated in said digital  
490 binder.

492       34. (Original) A computer system for enhancing  
communication within a community according to claim 21 wherein  
494 said application further comprises:

      an alerts module for setting automatic alerts,  
496       wherein a select group of said plurality of users can be  
automatically alerted to at least one activity or at least one  
498 message, wherein said at least one activity is a one of a  
topic within said hierarchical structure, an item type within  
500 said hierarchical structure, a response from an individual  
user within the community, a response from any one of a member  
502 of a group of users within the community, a new posting from  
an individual user within the community, and a new posting  
504 from any one of a member of a group of users within the  
community,

506       and further wherein said at least one message is sent to  
at least a one of a home page of said select group of said  
508 plurality of users, to an e-mail account of said select group  
of said plurality of users, to a voice mail box of said select  
510 group of said plurality of users, and to some other type of  
communications device of said select group of said plurality  
512 of users.

514       35. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing  
communication within a community, the method comprising the  
516 steps of:

      (a) receiving in an application in an application  
518 platform a communication sent by a user from a first

520        communication device, wherein said communication is associated  
520        with a user selected topic of a plurality of topics such that  
520        said user selected topic is selected by said user, and  
522        receiving a link to a resource associated with said  
522        communication;

524        (b) determining an access right said user has to  
information stored in a database of said application in said  
526        application platform;

528        (c) accessing a current database hierarchy, authorization  
parameters, and interaction control parameters for said  
application;

530        (d) granting access to said user, according to said  
access right of said user, to a portion of said information  
532        stored in said database, wherein said portion of said  
534        information is stored in association with said user selected  
534        topic;

536        (e) determining a dynamic interaction capability for said  
user with said portion of said information based on said  
database hierarchy, said authorization parameters, and said  
538        interaction control parameters;

540        (f) prioritizing an order of said portion of said  
information;

542        (g) presenting said ~~ordered~~ said portion of said  
information that is ordered to said user for review;

544        (h) accepting an initial input from said user according  
to said dynamic interaction capability from said first  
communication device for storage in said database, wherein  
546        said initial input comprises said communication and said link;  
and

548        (i) outputting said initial input from said user to at  
least a second communication device.

550

552        36. (Original) A method according to claim 35 wherein  
said access right is based upon an access status, wherein said  
access status comprises a one of an inclusive access and an

554 exclusive access, and  
556 further wherein said inclusive access allows access to  
556 said information stored in said database except where excluded  
558 by said authorization parameters and said interaction control  
558 parameters, and

560 further wherein said exclusive access allows access to  
560 said information stored in said database only where explicitly  
560 assigned.

562

37. (Original) A method according to claim 35 wherein  
564 said current database hierarchy comprises:

566 a top-level hierarchy having at least one top-level  
566 subject;

568 at least one mid-level hierarchy, each of said at least  
568 one mid-level hierarchy having at least one mid-level subject  
570 related to at least one of said at least one top-level  
570 subject; and

572 a low-level hierarchy having at least one low-level  
572 subject related to at least one of said at least one mid-level  
572 subject,

574 wherein said initial input becomes an item indexed to at  
574 least one of said at least one low-level subject.

576

38. (Original) A method according to claim 37 wherein  
578 said current database hierarchy further comprises:

580 at least one top-level leader assigned to each of said at  
580 least one top-level subject;

582 at least one mid-level leader assigned to each of said at  
582 least one mid-level subject; and

584 at least one low-level leader assigned to each of said at  
584 least one low-level subject.

586 39. (Original) A method according to claim 37 wherein  
586 said current database hierarchy further comprises:

588 at least one top-level authorization parameter and at

least one top-level interaction control parameter associated  
590 with each of said at least one top-level subject;  
at least one mid-level authorization parameter and at  
592 least one mid-level interaction control parameter associated  
with each of said at least one mid-level subject; and  
594 at least one low-level authorization parameter and at  
least one low-level interaction control parameter associated  
596 with each of said at least one low-level subject.

598 40. (Original) A method according to claim 39 wherein  
said at least one low-level authorization parameter and said  
600 at least one low-level interaction control parameter  
associated with each of said at least one low-level subject is  
602 inherited from said at least one mid-level subject related to  
said at least one low-level subject, and  
604 further wherein said at least one mid-level authorization  
parameter and said at least one mid-level interaction control  
606 parameter associated with each of said at least one mid-level  
subject is inherited from said at least one top-level subject  
608 related to said at least one mid-level subject, and  
further wherein said at least one top-level authorization  
610 parameter and said at least one top-level interaction control  
parameter associated with each of said at least one top-level  
612 subject is inherited from a web master.

614 41. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim  
35 wherein said determining dynamic interaction capability  
616 further comprises:  
stratifying said portion of said information into at  
618 least one item type.

620 42. (Original) A method according to claim 41 wherein  
said at least one item type comprises a one of an idea,  
622 question, event, review, survey, newsletter, and action item.

624       43. (Original) A method according to claim 35 wherein  
each of said authorization parameters has at least one access  
626 level, wherein a higher one of each of said at least one  
access level provides more management control than a lower one  
628 of each of said at least one access level.

630       44. (Original) A method according to claim 35 wherein  
each of said interaction control parameters has at least one  
632 control level, wherein a higher one of each of said at least  
one control level provides more management control than a  
634 lower one of each of said at least one control level.

636       45. (Original) A method according to claim 35 wherein  
said presenting step further comprises:

638           presenting alerts to said user to an activity within the  
community,

640           wherein said activity is a one of a topic within said  
hierarchical structure, an item type within said hierarchical  
642 structure, a response from an individual user within the  
community, a response from any one of a member of a group of  
644 users within the community, a new posting from an individual  
user within the community, and a new posting from any one of a  
646 member of a group of users within the community.

648       46. (Original) A method according to claim 35 wherein  
said presenting step further comprises:

650           presenting alerts to said user to a message within the  
community,

652           wherein said message is sent to at least a one of a home  
page of said user, to an e-mail account of said user, to a  
654 voice mail box of said user, and to some other type of  
communications device of said user.

656

      47. (Original) A method according to claim 35 wherein  
658 said outputting step further comprises:

outputting said initial input as an alert to a select

660 group of users,

wherein said initial input is output to at least a one of  
662 a home page of said select group of users, an e-mail account  
of said select group of users, a voice mail box of said select  
664 group of users, and to some other type of communications  
device of said select group of users.

666

48. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing  
668 communication within a community, the method comprising the  
steps of:

670 (a) receiving in an application in an application  
platform a communication sent by a user from a first  
672 communication device, wherein said communication is associated  
with a user selected topic of a plurality of topics such that  
674 said user selected topic is selected by said user, and  
receiving a link to a resource associated with said  
676 communication;

678 (b) determining an access right said user has to  
information stored in a database of said application in said  
application platform;

680 (c) accessing a current database hierarchy, authorization  
parameters, and interaction control parameters for said  
682 application;

684 (d) granting access to said user, according to said  
access right of said user, to a portion of said information  
stored in said database, wherein said portion of said  
686 information is stored in association with said user selected  
topic;

688 (e) determining a dynamic interaction capability for said  
user with said portion of said information based on said  
690 database hierarchy, said authorization parameters, and said  
interaction control parameters;

692 (f) prioritizing an order of said portion of said  
information;

694 (g) presenting ~~said ordered~~ said portion of said  
information that is ordered to said user for review;  
696 (h) receiving a selection input by said user an item type  
to respond to;  
698 (i) accepting a response input from said user according  
to said dynamic interaction capability from said first  
700 communication device for storage in said database, wherein  
said response input comprises said communication and said  
702 link; and  
704 (j) outputting said response input from said user to at  
least a second communication device.

706 49. (Original) A method according to claim 48 wherein  
said access right is based upon an access status, wherein said  
708 access status comprises a one of an inclusive access and an  
exclusive access, and  
710 further wherein said inclusive access allows access to  
said information stored in said database except where excluded  
712 by said authorization parameters and said interaction control  
parameters, and  
714 further wherein said exclusive access allows access to  
said information stored in said database only where explicitly  
716 assigned.

718 50. (Original) A method according to claim 48 wherein  
said current database hierarchy comprises:  
720 a top-level hierarchy having at least one top-level  
subject;  
722 at least one mid-level hierarchy, each of said at least  
one mid-level hierarchy having at least one mid-level subject  
724 related to at least one of said at least one top-level  
subject; and  
726 a low-level hierarchy having at least one low-level  
subject related to at least one of said at least one mid-level  
728 subject,

wherein said response input becomes an item indexed to at

730 least one of said at least one low-level subject.

732 51. (Original) A method according to claim 50 wherein  
said current database hierarchy further comprises:

734 at least one top-level leader assigned to each of said at  
least one top-level subject;

736 at least one mid-level leader assigned to each of said at  
least one mid-level subject; and

738 at least one low-level leader assigned to each of said at  
least one low-level subject.

740

52. (Original) A method according to claim 50 wherein  
742 said current database hierarchy further comprises:

744 at least one top-level authorization parameter and at  
least one top-level interaction control parameter associated  
with each of said at least one top-level subject;

746 at least one mid-level authorization parameter and at  
least one mid-level interaction control parameter associated  
748 with each of said at least one mid-level subject; and

750 at least one low-level authorization parameter and at  
least one low-level interaction control parameter associated  
with each of said at least one low-level subject.

752

53. (Original) A method according to claim 52 wherein  
754 said at least one low-level authorization parameter and said  
at least one low-level interaction control parameter

756 associated with each of said at least one low-level subject is  
inherited from said at least one mid-level subject related to  
758 said at least one low-level subject, and

760 further wherein said at least one mid-level authorization  
parameter and said at least one mid-level interaction control  
762 parameter associated with each of said at least one mid-level  
subject is inherited from said at least one top-level subject  
related to said at least one mid-level subject, and

764        further wherein said at least one top-level authorization  
765        parameter and said at least one top-level interaction control  
766        parameter associated with each of said at least one top-level  
767        subject is inherited from a web master.

768

54. (Original) A method according to claim 48 wherein  
770        said determining dynamic interaction capability further  
771        comprises:

772        stratifying said portion of said information into at  
773        least one item type.

774

55. (Original) A method according to claim 54 wherein  
776        said at least one item type comprises a one of an idea,  
777        question, event, review, survey, newsletter, and action item.

778

56. (Original) A method according to claim 48 wherein  
780        each of said authorization parameters has at least one access  
781        level, wherein a higher one of each of said at least one  
782        access level provides more management control than a lower one  
783        of each of said at least one access level.

784

57. (Original) A method according to claim 48 wherein  
786        each of said interaction control parameters has at least one  
787        control level, wherein a higher one of each of said at least  
788        one control level provides more management control than a  
789        lower one of each of said at least one control level.

790        58. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing communication  
791        within a community, the method comprising the steps of:

792        (a) receiving in an application in an application  
793        platform a communication sent by a user from a first  
794        communication device;

795        (b) determining an access right said user has to  
796        information stored in a database of said application in said  
797        application platform;

798 (c) accessing a current database hierarchy, authorization parameters, and interaction control parameters  
800 for said application;

802 (d) granting access to said user, according to said access right of said user, to a portion of said information stored in said database;

804 (e) determining a dynamic interaction capability for said user with said portion of said information based on said 806 database hierarchy, said authorization parameters, and said interaction control parameters;

808 (f) prioritizing an order of said portion of said information;

810 (g) receiving a request by said user to customize reviewable content by creating a digital binder;

812 (h) receiving at least one selection input from said user of a part of said portion of said information stored in 814 said database to include in said digital binder;

816 (i) sorting said part of said portion of said information; and

818 (j) presenting for review to said user said digital binder having said sorted part of said portion of said information.

58. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing communication  
2 within a community, the method comprising the steps of:  
4 (a) receiving in an application in an application  
platform a communication sent by a user from a first  
communication device;  
6 (b) determining an access right said user has to  
information stored in a database of said application in said  
8 application platform;  
10 (c) accessing a current database hierarchy,  
authorization parameters, and interaction control parameters  
for said application;  
12 (d) granting access to said user, according to said  
access right of said user, to a portion of said information  
14 stored in said database;  
16 (e) determining a dynamic interaction capability for  
said user with said portion of said information based on said  
database hierarchy, said authorization parameters, and said  
18 interaction control parameters;  
20 (f) prioritizing an order of said portion of said  
information;  
22 (g) receiving a request by said user to customize  
reviewable content by creating a digital binder;  
24 (h) receiving at least one selection input from said  
user of a part of said portion of said information stored in  
said database to include in said digital binder;  
26 (i) sorting said part of said portion of said  
information; and  
28 (j) presenting for review to said user said digital  
binder having said sorted part of said portion of said  
30 information.

59. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58 wherein  
2 said access right is based upon an access status, wherein said  
access status comprises a one of an inclusive access and an  
4 exclusive access, and

6 further wherein said inclusive access allows access to  
6 said information stored in said database except where excluded  
8 by said authorization parameters and said interaction control  
8 parameters, and

10 further wherein said exclusive access allows access to  
10 said information stored in said database only where explicitly  
assigned.

60. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58 wherein  
2 said current database hierarchy comprises:

4 a top-level hierarchy having at least one top-level  
4 subject;

6 at least one mid-level hierarchy, each of said at least  
6 one mid-level hierarchy having at least one mid-level subject  
8 related to at least one of said at least one top-level  
8 subject; and

10 a low-level hierarchy having at least one low-level  
subject related to at least one of said at least one mid-level  
10 subject,

12 wherein said part of said portion of said information in  
said digital binder remains linked in real time to said  
14 current database hierarchy.

61. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 60 wherein  
2 said current database hierarchy further comprises:

4 at least one top-level leader assigned to each of said at  
4 least one top-level subject;

6 at least one mid-level leader assigned to each of said at  
6 least one mid-level subject; and

8 at least one low-level leader assigned to each of said at  
8 least one low-level subject.

62. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 60 wherein  
2 said current database hierarchy further comprises:

at least one top-level authorization parameter and at  
4 least one top-level interaction control parameter associated  
with each of said at least one top-level subject;  
6 at least one mid-level authorization parameter and at  
8 least one mid-level interaction control parameter associated  
with each of said at least one mid-level subject; and  
10 at least one low-level authorization parameter and at  
least one low-level interaction control parameter associated  
with each of said at least one low-level subject.

63. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 62 wherein  
2 said at least one low-level authorization parameter and said  
at least one low-level interaction control parameter  
4 associated with each of said at least one low-level subject is  
inherited from said at least one mid-level subject related to  
6 said at least one low-level subject, and  
further wherein said at least one mid-level authorization  
8 parameter and said at least one mid-level interaction control  
parameter associated with each of said at least one mid-level  
10 subject is inherited from said at least one top-level subject  
related to said at least one mid-level subject, and  
12 further wherein said at least one top-level authorization  
parameter and said at least one top-level interaction control  
14 parameter associated with each of said at least one top-level  
subject is inherited from a web master.

64. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58 wherein  
2 said determining dynamic interaction capability further  
comprises:  
4 stratifying said portion of said information into at  
least one item type.

65. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 64 wherein  
2 said at least one item type comprises a one of an idea,  
question, event, review, survey, newsletter, and action item.

66. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58 wherein  
2 each of said authorization parameters has at least one access  
level, wherein a higher one of each of said at least one  
4 access level provides more management control than a lower one  
of each of said at least one access level.

67. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58 wherein  
2 each of said interaction control parameters has at least one  
control level, wherein a higher one of each of said at least  
4 one control level provides more management control than a  
lower one of each of said at least one control level.

68. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58 further  
2 comprising:

4 outputting said digital binder to at least a second  
communication device over a communications channel.

69. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58 further  
2 comprising:

4 updating said digital binder in real time with new  
content received in said application related to said at least  
one selection input.

70. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing communication  
2 within a community, the method comprising the steps of:  
4 (a) receiving in an application of an application  
platform a communication sent by a user from a first  
communication device;  
6 (b) determining an access right said user has to  
information stored in a database of said application in said  
8 application platform;  
10 (c) accessing a current database hierarchy,  
authorization parameters, and interaction control parameters  
for said application;  
12 (d) granting access to said user, according to said  
access right of said user, to a portion of said information  
14 stored in said database;  
16 (e) determining a dynamic interaction capability for  
said user with said portion of said information based on said  
database hierarchy, said authorization parameters, and said  
18 interaction control parameters;  
20 (f) prioritizing an order of said portion of said  
information;  
22 (g) presenting said ordered said portion of said  
information to said user for review;  
24 (h) accepting selection input from said user of a  
portion of said ordered said portion of said information for  
output; and  
26 (i) outputting said portion of said ordered said portion  
of said information to at least a second communication device.

71. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 70 wherein  
2 said outputting step further comprises the following steps:  
4 consolidating said portion of said ordered said portion  
of said information;  
6 sorting said portion of said ordered said portion of said  
information;

setting a level of content review for said portion of  
8 said ordered said portion of said information,

10 wherein said level of content review is a one of a  
full review, a summary only review, a title only review,  
and an all responses review; and

12 formatting said portion of said ordered said portion of  
said information in said level of content review.

72. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 70 wherein  
2 said access right is based upon an access status, wherein said  
access status comprises a one of an inclusive access and an  
4 exclusive access, and

6 further wherein said inclusive access allows access to  
said information stored in said database except where excluded  
by said authorization parameters and said interaction control  
8 parameters, and

10 further wherein said exclusive access allows access to  
said information stored in said database only where explicitly  
assigned.

73. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 70 wherein  
2 said current database hierarchy comprises:

4 a top-level hierarchy having at least one top-level  
subject;

6 at least one mid-level hierarchy, each of said at least  
one mid-level hierarchy having at least one mid-level subject  
related to at least one of said at least one top-level  
8 subject; and

10 a low-level hierarchy having at least one low-level  
subject related to at least one of said at least one mid-level  
subject.

74. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 73 wherein  
2 said current database hierarchy further comprises:

at least one top-level leader assigned to each of said at  
4 least one top-level subject;  
at least one mid-level leader assigned to each of said at  
6 least one mid-level subject; and  
at least one low-level leader assigned to each of said at  
8 least one low-level subject.

75. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 73 wherein  
2 said current database hierarchy further comprises:

at least one top-level authorization parameter and at  
4 least one top-level interaction control parameter associated  
with each of said at least one top-level subject;  
6 at least one mid-level authorization parameter and at  
least one mid-level interaction control parameter associated  
8 with each of said at least one mid-level subject; and  
at least one low-level authorization parameter and at  
10 least one low-level interaction control parameter associated  
with each of said at least one low-level subject.

76. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 75 wherein  
2 said at least one low-level authorization parameter and said  
at least one low-level interaction control parameter  
4 associated with each of said at least one low-level subject is  
inherited from said at least one mid-level subject related to  
6 said at least one low-level subject, and

further wherein said at least one mid-level authorization  
8 parameter and said at least one mid-level interaction control  
parameter associated with each of said at least one mid-level  
10 subject is inherited from said at least one top-level subject  
related to said at least one mid-level subject, and

12 further wherein said at least one top-level authorization  
parameter and said at least one top-level interaction control  
14 parameter associated with each of said at least one top-level  
subject is inherited from a web master.

77. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 70 wherein  
2 said determining dynamic interaction capability further  
comprises:

4 stratifying said portion of said information into at  
least one item type.

78. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 77 wherein  
2 said at least one item type comprises a one of an idea,  
question, event, review, survey, newsletter, and action item.

79. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 70 wherein  
2 each of said authorization parameters has at least one access  
level, wherein a higher one of each of said at least one  
4 access level provides more management control than a lower one  
of each of said at least one access level.

80. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 70 wherein  
2 each of said interaction control parameters has at least one  
control level, wherein a higher one of each of said at least  
4 one control level provides more management control than a  
lower one of each of said at least one control level.

81. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community, the computer system  
comprising:  
4 an application platform having an application for  
receiving a communication sent by a user from a first  
6 communication device, said application further comprising:  
8 a database for storing information in said  
application;  
10 an authorization interface module for determining an  
access right of said user to said stored information;  
12 an inherited parameters responsibility module for  
setting a current database hierarchy, at least one  
14 authorization parameter, and at least one interaction  
control parameter in said application;  
16 an authorization module for granting access to said  
user, according to said access right of said user, to a  
portion of said information stored in said database;  
18 an interaction control module for determining a  
dynamic interaction capability for said user with said  
20 portion of said information based on said database  
hierarchy, said authorization parameters, and said  
22 interaction control parameters;  
24 a content prioritizing interface for ordering said  
portion of said information;  
26 a reviewing module for presenting said ordered  
portion of said information to said user for review;  
28 an input module for accepting input from said  
communication from said user;  
30 a thread synchronization module for synchronizing  
said input from said communication from said user with  
said information stored in said database; and  
32 an output module for outputting a response from said  
user to at least a second communication device.

82. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 81 wherein  
4 said application platform is a one of a centralized  
application platform architecture and a distributed  
application platform architecture,

6 wherein said distributed application platform  
8 architecture has a plurality of databases for storing  
distributively said plurality of communications.

83. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 82 further  
comprising:

4 for said distributed application platform architecture, a  
content synchronization module for exchanging and  
6 synchronizing content between said plurality of databases.

84. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 81 said  
application further comprises:

4 a content access interface for determining said current  
database hierarchy accessible by said user; and  
6 further wherein said content prioritizing interface sorts  
and prioritizes said portion of said information.

85. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 81 wherein  
said current database hierarchy comprises:

4 a top-level hierarchy having at least one top-level  
subject;  
6 at least one mid-level hierarchy, each of said at least  
one mid-level hierarchy having at least one mid-level subject  
8 related to at least one of said at least one top-level  
subject; and

10 a low-level hierarchy having at least one low-level  
subject related to at least one of said at least one mid-level  
12 subject.

86. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 81 further  
comprising:

4 a recording module accessible by said first communication  
device,

6 wherein said recording module, after a user input is  
received in said first communication device from said user on  
8 a record option, queries said database causing said database  
to deliver to said first communication device said current  
10 database hierarchy, and

12 further wherein said recording module receives a user  
selection input from said user of a topic within said current  
database hierarchy with which to associate said input from  
14 said communication from said user from said first  
communication device, and

16 further wherein said recording module records and stores  
in said database said input from said communication sent from  
18 said first communication device.

87. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 86 wherein  
said recording module resides on said first communication  
4 device.

88. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 86 wherein  
said recording module resides on said application and is  
4 accessed over a communication channel by a user input on said  
record option selected from a tool bar displayed on said first  
6 communication device.

89. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 81 wherein  
4 said inherited parameters responsibility module further  
comprises:

6 a hierarchy initiation module for creating a plurality of  
headings in a top-level hierarchy and for assigning at least  
one heading leader for each of said plurality of headings, and

8 for creating a plurality of categories in a mid-level  
hierarchy and for assigning at least one category leader for  
10 each of said plurality of categories, and

12 for creating a plurality of topics in a low-level  
hierarchy and for assigning at least one topic leader for each  
of said plurality of topics,

14 wherein each of said stored information becomes an item  
indexed to at least one of said plurality of topics.

90. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 81 wherein  
4 said input module further comprises:

6 a resource attachment module for attaching a resource to  
said input from said communication from said user,

8 wherein said resource is a one of an internal database  
link, a document/file attachment, and an external Internet  
link.

91. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 81 wherein  
4 said thread synchronization module further comprises:

6 an initial priority-based content placement module for  
determining a priority assignment for an initial communication  
8 so that when reviewed by said user accessing said application,  
said initial communication is reviewed in proper relationship  
to a plurality of communications related to said initial  
communication; and

10        a response priority-based content placement module for  
determining a priority assignment for said response from said  
12 user so that when reviewed by at least a second user accessing  
said application, said response is reviewed in proper  
14 relationship to a plurality of communications related to said  
response.

92. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 81 wherein  
said reviewing module further comprises:

4        a filter module for setting at least one filter  
parameter; and

6        a consolidation reviewing interface for setting a level  
of content review,

8        wherein said set level of content review is a one of a  
full review, a summary only review, a title only review, and  
10 an all responses review.

93. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 81 wherein  
said reviewing module further comprises:

4        a customized interactive reviewing module for creating a  
digital binder,

6        wherein said customized interactive reviewing module  
allows said user to aggregate in said digital binder a  
8 specific portion of said information most useful to said user.

94. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 93 wherein  
said input module and said thread synchronization module  
4 update said digital binder in real time with new content  
received in said application related to said specific portion  
6 of said information aggregated in said digital binder.

95. (Withdrawn) A computer system for enhancing  
2 communication within a community according to claim 81 wherein  
said application further comprises:

4 an alerts module for setting automatic alerts,  
wherein said user can be automatically alerted to at  
6 least one activity or at least one message, wherein said at  
least one activity is a one of a topic within said database  
8 hierarchy, an item type within said database hierarchy, a  
response from an individual user within the community, a  
10 response from any one of a member of a group of users within  
the community, a new posting from an individual user within  
12 the community, and a new posting from any one of a member of a  
group of users within the community, and  
14 further wherein said at least one message is sent to at  
least a one of a home page of at least one other user, an e-  
16 mail account of said at least one other user, a voice mail box  
of said at least one other user, and to some other type of  
18 communications device of said at least one other user.

96. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing communication  
2 within a community, the method comprising:  
4 (a) establishing a hierarchical structure for organizing  
communications between a plurality of users within the  
community;  
6 (b) distributing control through selection of inherited  
parameters of said hierarchical structure to at least one of  
8 said plurality of users, wherein said inherited parameters  
comprise parameters defining access by said plurality of users  
10 to said communications organized within said hierarchical  
structure;  
12 (c) storing in said hierarchical structure at least a  
portion of said communications received from said plurality of  
14 users from at least one of a plurality of input devices in  
relation to at least one of a plurality of topics;  
16 (d) prioritizing said at least a portion of said  
communications within said hierarchical structure;  
18 (e) presenting to at least a one of said plurality of  
users through said at least one of a plurality of input  
20 devices a selected portion of said communications stored in  
said hierarchical structure, wherein said selected portion of  
22 said communications is related under a topic; and  
24 (f) alerting said at least a one of said plurality of  
users to an activity related to said topic occurring within  
the community,  
26 wherein said activity is a one of a topic within said  
hierarchical structure, an item type within said hierarchical  
28 structure, a response from an individual user within the  
community, a response from any one of a member of a group of  
30 users within the community, a new posting from an individual  
user within the community, and a new posting from any one of a  
32 member of a group of users within the community.

97. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing communication  
2 within a community according to claim 96 wherein step (f) is  
replaced by the following new step (f):

4 (f) alerting said at least a one of said plurality of  
users to a message within the community,

6 wherein said message is sent to at least a one of a home  
page of said at least one of said plurality of users, to an e-  
8 mail account of said at least one of said plurality of users,  
to a voice mail box of said at least one of said plurality of  
10 users, and to some other type of communications device of said  
at least one of said plurality of users.

98. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing communication  
2 within a community according to claim 96 wherein step (f) is  
replaced by the following new step (f):

4 (f) alerting others within the community to an activity  
or a message of said at least a one of said plurality of  
6 users,

8 wherein said activity is a one of a topic within said  
hierarchical structure, an item type within said hierarchical  
structure, a response from said at least one of said plurality  
10 of users, a new posting from said at least one of said  
plurality of users, and

12 further wherein said message is sent to at least a one of  
a home page of said others within the community, to an e-mail  
14 account of said others within the community, to a voice mail  
box of said others within the community, and to some other  
16 type of communications device of said others within the  
community.

99. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing communication  
2 within a community according to claim 96 wherein step (f) is  
replaced by the following new step (f) and further comprising  
4 the steps (g) through (i):

6 (f) setting a deadline for a rapid feedback evaluation  
of at least one item type;  
8 (g) selecting a type of response for said rapid feedback  
evaluation of said at least one item type;  
10 (h) selecting a group of users to respond to said rapid  
feedback evaluation of said at least one item type;  
12 (i) sending said at least one item type and said  
selected type of response to said selected group of users; and  
14 (j) receiving a plurality of said selected type of  
response from said selected group of users to said at least  
one item type.

16

2 100. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing communication  
within a community according to claim 99 wherein said at least  
4 one item type is a one of an idea, question, event, review,  
survey, newsletter, and action item.